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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

File the Application of: OHNISHI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/184,878

Group Art Unit: 2835

CHANG

Examiner: Lynn Diana FEILD

Filed: November 3, 1998

For: ELECTRONIC APPARATUS AND DISK UNIT MOUNTING MECHANISM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 9, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits following the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in the above-identified patent application.

An English Abstract and a complete English translation of each of the references AM, AO and AR are attached to the respective copies thereof. An English Abstract and partial English translation of each of the references AL, AN, AP and AQ are attached to the respective copies thereof.

The references AL through AR were submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed at the time of the filing of this application, and have already been considered by the Examiner, however, the (new) English translations provided herewith are different from those already submitted. It is difficult to judge which version of the English translation (the old or the new) are

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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/184,878

better. But, in order to show good faith before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants have now submitted the (new) English translations, which recently became available to the Applicants.

Reference AO has a corresponding U.S. Patent No. 5,337,998, and reference AN has a corresponding U.S. Patent No. 5,349,486, both of which have already been filed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 29, 1999.

Reference AL corresponds to U.S. Patent Application S.N. 08/538,212.

References AA through AK and BA through BE were cited in an Informational Search Report issued with respect to an International patent application WO 99/06902 which was cited as a reference in the European Search Report issued in the corresponding European case. The International patent application WO 99/06902 was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 12, 2000.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: PTO-1449 and references (23)

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